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Cease-Fire Developments

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25X1

CONTENTS

2 June 1973

25X1

LAOS	2
Communist Statement on Negotiations	
VIETNAM.	3
Communist Capital at Dong Ha?	

25X1

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LAOSCommunist Statement on Negotiations

The Lao Communist Central Committee yesterday released an unusually detailed statement on the status of the negotiations in Vientiane. The Communists outlined their "reasonable" position on almost every issue and went to great length to substantiate their claim that Vientiane and the US are to blame for the continued impasse. The statement, which once again strongly protested US overflights of Laos, probably was made in response to US charges of Communist cease-fire violations in both Laos and South Vietnam.

25X1

2 June 1973

SOUTH VIETNAMCommunist Capital at Dong Ha?

The Communists are rebuilding Dong Ha as the North Vietnamese "provincial" capital of Quang Tri,

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[redacted] the North Vietnamese were engaged in the reconstruction of houses and streets, and the handling of supplies and other transshipment tasks. There also were government buildings identified respectively as offices for the information, security, and electric power services. [redacted] civilians from areas just above the DMZ are to be resettled in the city after the reconstruction is completed.

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Various sources have confirmed that Dong Ha is being rehabilitated and that it already is tied in with North Vietnam's administrative and communications systems. There have been reports that the Communists would like to choose a capital for their "Provisional Revolutionary Government" (PRG) before 6 June, the anniversary of its establishment [redacted]

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